

The Baptist Record

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Zimbabwe Partnership needs Agri-Missions couple

By Farno Green

A husband and wife team is urgently needed in Zimbabwe for two years as part of the Mississippi-Zimbabwe Partnership. This couple will assist with both short and long term food needs.

The semi-arid rural region near Beitbridge, Zimbabwe has the most severe drought on record in 100 years. Sparse grass is gone, cattle are dying, water wells have dried up, and most crops have totally failed.

Funds from Baptist World Hunger Fund are being used to purchase a truck and carloads of grain for distribution in the area where there are 15 Baptist churches and four new fellowships.

Missionaries Ron and Jan Langston are concerned not only that food be available to sustain life, but that young churches and fellowships not be disbanded and disappear.

Beyond the area where the Langstons have established churches and fellowships, thousands of people in witchcraft and ancestor-worship have never heard about Christ and the true God. Many people eagerly respond when they have the opportunity to hear the gospel.

The Agricultural Missions Fellowship of the Mississippi Brotherhood has planned with the Zimbabwe Mission to send in the summer of 1992 a volunteer husband and wife team for a two-year agricultural project. The project is to teach the farmers and wives in the Beitbridge area to raise and process sorghum or millet, which require less rainfall than corn. They will also teach vegetable crop planting to balance the diet.

Langston has requested the



A Zimbabwe woman works her field.

Mississippi-sponsored couple be in Zimbabwe by the end of May 1992 to assist with food distribution. On arrival, duties will be to assure that food will be unloaded and stored with proper security, and delivery schedules will be met.

The couple will work with elementary school principals to determine

which families will be eligible for food.

The advance work of the team in food distribution will be good experience and background for later establishment of the agricultural project involving 100 farmers the first year and 500 farmers the second year. The team will learn the culture of the

people, the geography, areas best suited for the project, and the location of diligent farmers.

Carrying out the agricultural planting season next November and December will be based on faith that the Lord will provide rain for that season.

Qualifications for the team are that both members have agricultural education background and experience. The husband should have at least one degree in agriculture. Ideally, the wife would have a degree in home economics, and teaching experience in some subject. Preferably both should have a farm background. Previous experience overseas as a mission volunteer, journeyman, or Peace Corpsman would be useful.

The two must be dedicated Christians, personally interested in spreading the gospel. There will be many opportunities to tell of Christ, assist in leadership training, to help establish new Christian fellowships and churches. Experience in teaching Sunday School, discipleship training, Vacation Bible Schools or Backyard Bible Clubs will give additional opportunities for service.

The man, for food distribution trips, should be hearty enough to withstand long hours and riding on rough roads. He should have a driver's license for large truck.

Because the national people are peaceful, no danger is anticipated. Our Baptist missionaries have been well accepted and respected throughout Zimbabwe.

A couple interested in the opportunity to meet these needs may contact Bill Hardy, Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership, Baptist Building, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, Mississippi 39205, (601) 968-3800.

Green lives in Ruth, and is volunteer Agri-Missions Coordinator with the Zimbabwe Partnership.

Stressed-out children need careful attention

By Terri Lackey

NASHVILLE (BP) — A child arrives at the day care center or preschool class at church and immediately heads for a corner where he speaks to no one for the entire day.

Or perhaps, a normally good-natured child becomes irritable and restless. Maybe he even begins hitting other children or constantly crying.

"What you have is a stressed-out child," said Maurice Graham, a pastoral counselor and associate pastor of Bon Air Church of Richmond, Va.

When leaders are familiar with a child's background, they usually find it easier to pinpoint the cause of stress, he said.

Graham said adults who see signs of stress in children usually tend to ignore those signals and say, "They are just children, they'll get over it," or "They're too young to know what's going on (in the family)." But, he said, "Children are more traumatized by stressful events than adults. They are deeply affected by life situations."

Most commonly, children experience stress because of the separation or divorce of their parents, Graham said. "Divorce is the most traumatic event a child can experience."

Parents owe it to their children to tell them the truth about what is happening in their marriages, Graham said. Waiting and hiding the truth only delays the child's recovery from the trauma, he said.

Some signs of stress in children include irritability, impulsive behavior, restlessness, inability to concentrate, loss of sense of humor or sense of joy, fatigue, excessive sleeping or insomnia, verbal or physical aggressiveness, sudden weight loss or gain, and hyperactivity.

When children's workers see little ones behaving differently than usual, don't ignore it, Graham advised. "Spend time unraveling their story."

Children often experience stress because their home life is hectic, Graham said.

"We need to be very careful as preschool/children's workers that we don't buy into this urgency," he said. "We need to help the child slow down. Our sense of urgency just raises the child's stress level."

Children with a high level of stress are unteachable, Graham said.

"You cannot teach children until you get the stress out of their bodies."

A generation ago, children played in the woods by day and stared at the stars by night. Today, they still gaze at galaxies but the moon and stars are on a television monitor being manipulated by Nintendo controls.

"Kids are growing up in an electronic bubble," Richard Louv, an author and columnist, told participants attending the preschool/children's conference at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. "Kids don't get out and play anymore; they play indoors. Kids can't tell you very much about the last time they spent much time in the woods."

"Today that physical boundary I

had when I was a kid is replaced by an electronic boundary. Kids can go as far as Nintendo will take them," Louv said. "I don't know what we are doing to the next generation when we cut them off from nature. I think that relationship is extremely important."

Family time together has dropped 40% in the last 10 to 15 years, he said. People are working 164 more hours a year than they were two decades ago.

"Children will not be productive, healthy, or happy without positive adult interaction."

Teachers or parents don't have much time to spend with children, Louv said.

Louv said senior adults could be the "winner soldiers" of the new family movement. They could spend time volunteering in classrooms or community activities.

"Our culture needs to give parenting a blessing," Louv said. "You need to become an advocate for preschoolers and children."

Lackey writes for BSSB.

"I never knew God could speak English!"

A humorous statement was made by a Thai Baptist pastor recently. He was traveling with missionary Bob Stewart to help teach at the West-Thailand Leadership School at Tha Chang (Elephant Pier) Baptist Church in Suphanburi Province. They were discussing different kinds of food and the pastor, Acharn Anan Plongtong, laughingly told him about the first time he had eaten American food in a missionary's home.

He found it to be an interesting experience in many ways. The food was different (no rice and no flavor — very bland) and different kind of utensils (a knife on the table), but the thing that made the greatest impression was that the prayer of thanks was given in English! "I had never realized before that God could understand English," said Plongtong, "or any other language besides Thai!"

Stewart silently recalled a similar thought he had had in June 1957 when he heard his first prayer in a foreign language (Japanese) and realized that God could understand prayer in languages other than English! In fact, any language.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Living in an X-rated society

America has become a sex-crazed society with the furnace being stoked continually by X-rated, PG-rated, and even general movies and television. Lust, not love, is the motivating factor and the battlefield is strewn with casualties. The so-called sexual revolution of the last 30 years has sown to the wind and now we reap the whirlwind.

Some 80% of adult Americans say they received their core values from their families, but two-thirds unhappily say that today's children are getting their values from television, movies, musicians, or rock videos, says family enthusiast James Dobson. The "new morality" era is upon us and the cool chill of deceit blows across the land. Something created of God and overshadowing all of life's experiences has been pushed aside for uninhibited, erotic sexuality that damages the very fabric of society.

Since 1970, unwed pregnancies have increased 87% among 18-19-year-olds. Teenage abortions are estimated to number over 350,000 per year. Venereal disease has infected a generation. Homosexuals have left the closets to take to the streets, demanding respect for

their "alternate life style." Peer pressure is said to be the number one reason for teenage sexual experimentation.

You could wish all these sexual escapades, deviations, and diseases would just go away. They will not — now or in the future. The church will have to deal with it. Individual Christians will have to make decisions about it. Mothers and dads, products of sex themselves, will have to find a way to teach their children about it.

The federal government, according to Dobson, since 1970 has spent over \$2 billion to promote condom usage and "safe sex." This year \$450 million will go down this unsuccessful drain. Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., to the dismay of Southern Baptists, has voted to "bless" a homosexual union. Following the route of Sodom and Gomorra can only end with similar results.

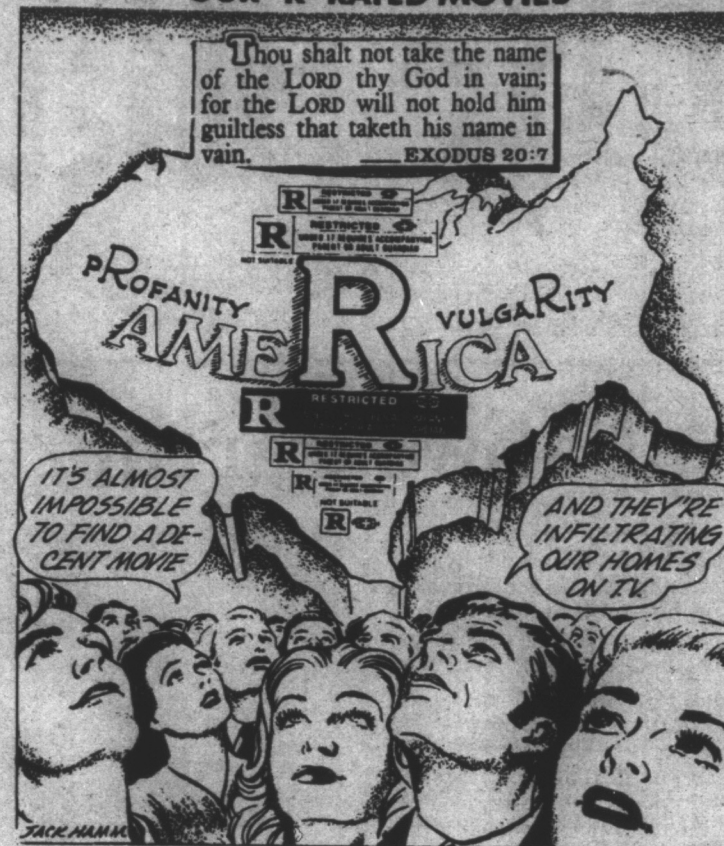
So what can we do? First, have faith in God, though all else fail about you. The God who condemned adultery, fornication, and homosexuality is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Face up to what is taking place today and

teach your children the way of the gospel. Encourage your church to provide books, videos, and seminars on sex education. Watch the ACTS Network's "Family Enrichment Series" with James Dobson, D. James Kennedy, and Kay Arthur. This will be shown in late March and early April.

Write public officials, radio and TV stations, and your congressmen. Let them know about offensive materials and commend them on appropriate actions. And read, read, and read: *The Great Sex Swindle* by John W. Drakeford; *God, Sex, and You* by M. O. Vincent, M.D.; *Sex Is a Parent Affair* by Letha Scanzoni; *How to Teach Your Child About Sex* by Grace D. Ketteman, M.D.; *Sexual Sanity* by Earl D. Wilson; and *Homosexuality and the Church* by Richard F. Lovelace. You may not agree with everything in the books, but you will agree with most of it.

Dobson writes, "Can you believe it? The desire for family values and a hunger to know God are again becoming dominant in American hearts and minds." This could lead a nation out of a moral swamp and put our feet on the solid rock.

OUR "R" RATED MOVIES



The pendulum continues to swing

No sooner do we edge through a crisis on the left till we have one swinging on the right. Now the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has announced plans to give scholarships for theological education at Candler School of Theology at Emory University and at Duke Divinity School. Also, the Richmond Seminary will be awarded \$15,000 in next year's budget. The Alliance of Southern Baptists, founder of the Richmond Seminary, has announced the removal of "Southern" from its name and no longer will be Southern Baptist. Candler and Duke will receive \$5,000 each in the 1992-93 school year. Five \$1,000 scholarships to any SBC student involved in entry-level theology at any other school of theology except those supported by the SBC.

Candler is a Methodist school

and Duke is a private university with leanings toward the Methodists. These schools are highly acclaimed but they are not Baptist, and to create a "Baptist section" of a theological school is enough to make you wonder what other sections have been created. Are they really equipped to train Baptist preachers? Were I on a pastor search committee, I would take a long look at a graduate before I voted to call him.

Moreover, how will these schools teach Baptist doctrines, missions, church polity, and Baptist history? What would a Baptist church be like after being pastored a number of years by a Candler or Duke graduate? Can a church seriously interested in pastors being trained and equipped to lead our churches contribute toward this? Is there no better solution? — GH

Divine Providence

The community near Meridian is called Zero. The twister had no name, but the two collided last week. One baby will have an unusual page in his scrapbook. In the deep of the night he was blown out of his mobile home into a pine tree. It was there, hanging by his gown, the plucky lad voiced his opinion about the whole thing. Rescued by his father, the three month old baby suffered only surface wounds.

The story was picked up by news services and had wide coverage. One reporter said if you believe in Providence then you will believe the child was Providentially protected during the midnight ride. The next morning the parents and friends were trying to salvage what they could find. One person came out with several items including the large family Bible. The TV camera zoomed in and for a moment spotlighted the Bible. Behind the man and the Bible you could see the scene of the destructive twister the words of a hymn came to mind: "In the cross of Christ I glory, Towering over the wrecks of time." Maybe that reporter was right. — GH

Guest opinion...

R. H. 2493 is still just a rumor

By Fletcher Allen

If Christians were to apply evangelistic zeal with force equivalent to the energy and time spent in chasing a false cause, there would be reason to rejoice.

However, Baptists and others continue to spend thousands upon thousands of dollars and countless time in distributing and signing petitions to counteract a very irresponsible rumor.

Don't sign a petition or ask someone else to sign it unless you can verify the accuracy of it! If in doubt, check with your pastor — the pastor or other church leaders would know or could get the answer.

There is no validity in the charge that Madalyn Murray O'Hair has petitioned the courts to halt religious broadcasting. This "chain letter" petition surfaced in 1975.

The phony petition generates about 83,000 letters a month to the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC now has received nearly 25 million pieces of mail on the issue since 1975.

With those facts in mind, one

can be assured there is no "Petition 2493." Think about it — with that much mail in 17 years — wouldn't such a claim have been settled by now?

Research indicates that for every four presentations of the gospel to an unbeliever, one person will make a petition to the FCC had been petitions to lost people, telling them about Christ, 6,000,000 might have become Christians.

Here are the facts: O'Hair never filed a petition with the FCC to remove religious broadcasting, according to FCC officials. On a standard response paper, the FCC says, "The commission cannot direct any broadcaster to present, or refrain from, presenting announcements or programs on religion. Broadcasters — not the FCC or any other government agency — are responsible for selecting the programming that is aired by their stations."

The phony petition is now making the rounds in Tennessee yet again. And, despite repeated pleas

to ignore the irresponsible circular, Christians, including thousands of well-meaning Southern Baptists, continue to copy and mail it with signatures — all done with evangelistic fervor.

What has the FCC done with all this mail? Could it be filed, stored, placed on shelves? Officials at that commission have said the venture is costly to them also. They have to burn, bury, or otherwise dispose of the letters and petitions. That takes time and taxpayers' money.

We are grateful for the pastors and laypeople who call us to verify the validity of petitions. Maybe we are gaining on the problem.

Mark this down: there is no real "R. H. 2493" about removing religious broadcasting from the air. There never has been. If there should ever be such an effort — our Baptist agencies, such as the Christian Life Commission, will make us all aware with proper concern and due haste.

Allen is editor, Tennessee BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR.

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Clarke College will close at end of term

The Board of Trustees for Clarke College, meeting in their regular March session, has voted that the Newton-based branch of the college should cease to operate after the close of the current academic term which concludes in May.

The trustees resolved "that Clarke College close and cease to operate as an institution of higher education with and at the close of the current term of academic studies and that appropriate notice of said closure to be given as promptly as possible to the faculty and staff and administration and students." The initial communication to the employees was sent out by the college on Friday following the trustees meeting on Thursday. Meetings and general communication with the students followed.

The trustees deemed the closure to be "in the best interest of Clarke College and the Baptists of the State of Mississippi to best handle and manage the resources entrusted to the trustees, both real and personal." Mississippi College will continue to operate within the framework of the directions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention expressed in the November 1980 vote to merge the two institutions and the documents of merger executed thereafter by the convention and the college.

A continuing loss of students, dwindling financial resources, from all sources, including a reduction of direct support from the Mississippi Baptist Convention in excess of \$1 million from 1984 through 1991, resulting in an overall state of institutional financial exigency, and the loss of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) were the main reasons cited for the closure vote.

Enrolled at the Newton campus was slightly over 200 when the Mississippi

pi Baptist Convention (MBC) voted to merge the institution with Mississippi College and asked the Clinton college to take control in 1981, following the recommendations of the Clarke College trustees, and the Education Commission of the Baptist Convention. Today, the student population is approximately 100.

Clarke College was placed on probation by SACS in 1987 and despite concerted efforts by the trustees, administration, and faculty to comply with SACS standards, probation was continued and the loss of accreditation came in 1990, resulting in the loss of federal student financial aid for all students at the institution. Clarke College officials appealed the loss of accreditation through the official channels of SACS and made formal arguments to the highest Appeals Committee of SACS in Atlanta, Ga., in April of 1991. These efforts and litigation in the federal courts, initiated by Clarke College, have not been successful in reversing the action of SACS.

The Clarke College trustees pointed out that the school faced the possibility of closure 12 years ago, preceding the vote of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The convention voted to merge Clarke College into Mississippi College and asked that the Clinton campus take over the operation of the Newton based institution rather than close its doors. Despite the strong posture of Mississippi College and the determined efforts by all concerned, a turnaround has not been perfected.

Giving assurances to the students currently enrolled, officials said that Clarke College will continue to operate until the current school year ends with normal graduation in May. Students not graduating will have the opportunity of continuing their education at Mississippi College or other in-

stitutions of higher learning of their choice.

Clarke College, established by a vote of the General Association of Regular Baptists in East Central Mississippi in 1907, received its charter and opened its doors to students in 1908 as a senior college. It was named Clarke Memorial College, honoring the memory of Nathan L. Clarke, a prominent Baptist pastor in

east central Mississippi for more than a half-century.

Ownership was transferred to the Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1914 and operation was conducted as a junior college. During the 1930s Depression the convention relinquished control and the school was operated on a lease arrangement by a number of individuals. In 1945 the MBC regained ownership and control

and has operated the institution continuously since then. The school name was changed to Clarke College in 1971.

Throughout its history the college has stressed its commitment to Christian values and its close ties to the Baptist churches in Mississippi. Its graduates have assumed places of leadership throughout the Mississippi and Southern Baptist Conventions.

— Prepared by Office of Public Relations, Mississippi College.

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

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Thursday, March 26, 1992

Published Since 1877

Keith Parks announces retirement in October

By Robert O'Brien

BEDFORD, Texas (BP) — R. Keith Parks emerged from a spiritual retreat with trustees of the Foreign Mission Board announcing he will retire as FMB president in October.

Seventy-eight trustees and 12 FMB executive staff met for the retreat March 19-20 after Parks asked trustees, in his address at their February meeting in Richmond, Va., to resolve the issue of his tenure.

Parks, a 38-year veteran of foreign missions who will turn 65 in October, asked trustees last August to allow him to serve until 1995 through the time of the board's sesquicentennial. The time, he said, would enable him to lay groundwork for his 10-point vision for global evangelization now under study by a trustee subcommittee.

Although he received public affirmations by trustees, Parks said in February that actions and undercurrents were occurring behind the scenes which undercut his role and leadership.

At the conclusion of the retreat, Parks said he felt God was leading him to retire. Parks will announce his decision officially at the trustees' meeting April 6-8 in Clemson, S.C. At that time, trustees will decide how long he will continue to carry his full

responsibilities as president and the process for seeking a successor.

A joint statement released by Parks and trustees at a press conference said trustees affirmed Parks and repeatedly requested he continue his leadership. It said Parks alone made the decision that he retire.

"The trustees expressed that they felt, and still feel, a strong desire to the contrary," the statement said. "They emphatically urged that Dr. Parks continue his leadership role, but submitted to his sense of God's leadership."

The statement, read to the press by FMB trustee chairman Bill Hancock of Louisville, Ky., acknowledged Parks' "superior leadership as president since 1980" and expressed trustee "concern for continuity in the ongoing mission enterprise."

It also said "trustees affirmed to the missionaries, (FMB) staff and Southern Baptists their commitment to the historic principles which have characteristically guided Southern Baptist foreign mission work."

In a question-and-answer time with reporters, Parks said his decision to retire in 1992, rather than in 1995, was made after he arrived at the retreat, although he had considered making it at the board's February meeting.

Parks said his decision became clear finally during a spiritual emphasis led by Henry Blackaby, whom trustees invited to set the spiritual tone for their meeting with Parks and his staff. Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening at the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, commended the retreat participants for their openness to the leading of God's spirit.

Asked to reconcile his decision to retire with his earlier feeling God was leading him to stay until 1995, Parks said: "In my own mind I've tried to reconcile that. Since that time there has not come the sense of certainty and affirmation that what I felt could be done then actually can be carried out."

Parks said he could sense "no apparent way" for trustees to make a commitment to him through 1995. "If I'd stayed, I think it would have...strung out the indefiniteness of tenure to the point that it would have created this uneasiness that has plagued all of us."

In a later interview, he explained that, although trustees had affirmed him during the retreat, he "never did get the feeling it (his tenure as president) would not come up again." He said a motion was made during the

(See PARKS on page 10)



Kerr



Pollard



Stagg



Thorn

Senior adults from five states expected in Jackson Mar. 30-Apr. 1



Tanner



Buckley

Senior adults from five states are expected in Jackson Mar. 30-April 1 for the Gulf States Baptist Senior Adult Convention. It will take place at First Church, Jackson. Theme of the convention is "Living in His Image."

Featured on the program will be pastor of First Church, Jackson, Frank Pollard.

He will be joined by Frank Stagg, professor emeritus at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., who lives at Diamondhead, Miss.; Horace Kerr, consultant in family ministry for the

Discipleship Training Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson; Bill Tanner, executive director of the Oklahoma Baptist Convention and a former pastor of First Church, Gulfport; and William Thorn, a Baptist minister and humorist from San Angelo, Tex.

Sid Buckley, a concert vocalist and professor at New Orleans Seminary, will direct the music and sing. The instrumentalists are Jerry Aultman, a professor at New Orleans Seminary, and his sister, Eva Hart, music assistant at First Church, Jackson.

A senior adult choir of church groups from Hinds-Madison Association will provide special music.

Senior adults are expected to participate from Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi, whose Baptist conventions are sponsoring the event.

For more program details, contact the Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800.

Draper: "We made a mistake"

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — Responding to concerns the Baptist Sunday School Board's television production studio and uplink facilities were used for a program featuring country music singer Hank Williams Jr., President James T. Draper Jr. said, "We made a mistake."

During the Feb. 12 live uplink, Williams urged viewers to attend his Budweiser Rockin' Country Tour. That reference was the first Sunday School Board officials knew of the involvement of the beer company with the program.

Draper said the board contracted in

early February 1992 with On the Scene Productions of Los Angeles for use of the board's television studio and uplink facilities. On the Scene had used the studio on one previous occasion.

Since the termination of the board's satellite telecommunication network in 1990, Draper said the board has regularly contracted with production companies to use its facilities to "uplink" live programs.

The board is one of only a few sites in Nashville equipped for live feeds and generates income to offset operating expenses through the

service.

Guidelines regarding content of programs originating from board facilities had been shared with On the Scene Productions prior to its first use of board video facilities.

"We made a mistake in assuming that guidelines given to the company previously would be followed on this occasion. Those guidelines stipulate that programming and sponsorship originating from our facilities must be entirely consistent with the values and lifestyle espoused by the Baptist Sunday School Board," Draper said.

Lawson writes for BSSB.

WMU speakers reiterate theme:

"Called and Accountable"

By Anne W. McWilliams

Women from across the state filled First Church, Clinton, March 16-17 for the 113th annual meeting of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. They celebrated the 35th anniversary of the organization's executive director, Marjean Patterson; re-elected officers; gave \$2,159.56 in offerings to the Second Century Fund of WMU, SBC; and listened to missionaries address needs and present prayer requests.

First Church, Clinton members played key roles in early days of WMU history. Host pastor, Bill Baker, in welcoming the women, pointed out that the first Sunbeam Band in the state was organized at that church in 1886.

"Called and Accountable"

Bible studies by Carolyn Miller, president, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, highlighted the theme, "Called and Accountable." "We're not accountable for winning," she said. "We are accountable for telling, for answering the call."

She read Matthew 9:35 and pointed out that "Jesus witnessed as he went" — teaching, preaching, healing. He calls us to make a difference where we are, she said. She told of a young woman who moved with her family to L.A. (lower Alabama). "There was no Baptist church within 20 miles. She went around her neighborhood inviting people to a Bible study in her

home. Twelve came the first Sunday. Every Sunday more came. After awhile, she called the Alabama Baptist Convention and asked them to send a mobile chapel so they could start a new church! One woman saw a need where she was and tried to meet it."

Each of the four sessions focused on a different area of missions: home missions, state missions, family missions, and foreign missions.

Home missionary Jane Barnes, who directs a resort ministry in Myrtle Beach, S.C., spoke of opportunities to invite partying people of the beachside city "to God's party."

State missions.

A state mission panel moderated by Vivian Taylor of Clara included Dick Brogan, consultant, Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Bob Storie, director of ministries, Jackson County Association; Wendy Hatcher, chaplain, Rankin County Correctional Facility; and Louis Lamar, pastor, Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Tupelo.

Brogan said, "I always wanted to ride an elephant in Africa and I ended up in the Mississippi Delta in a Volkswagen." His work is with the black congregations across the state. Mississippi's 37.5% black population is highest percentage of blacks in any state. He pinpointed the need for

young black men to begin new churches.

Lamar said, "If we are going into the uttermost part of the world, maybe we ought to start where we are." Pastor of a black Baptist church in Tupelo, he said, "We need people who will go across the tracks. We need to pray for harmony between the Southern Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention."

Storie, who directs ministries with seamen, refugees, needy school children, residents of multi-housing, and truckers, said there have been two professions of faith among truckers since a special center was opened for them a short time ago.

Hatcher said that of the 9,000 inmates in Mississippi prisons 90 percent are Baptists. "Pray for new Christian inmates who are being released," she requested. "Linda is being released tomorrow. She has AIDS, no money, no job, no support."

Family missions.

As for accountability in family missions, Lois Henderson said, "We must be faithful . . . for lives entrusted to us." Former missionary to Korea and the Philippines, she is mother of four, one of whom is a missionary to Costa Rica. She added, "How privileged the child who is born into a Christian home where God's Word is taught and lived out daily, where he becomes friends with the great characters of the Bible . . . Parents can be an example, offer opportunities, but they cannot save, cannot call, and cannot bring about spiritual growth . . . I am accountable in my home for the aroma of Christ (not just Pinesol and potpourri, not just apple pie and spices, but a sweet smell of Christ); . . . for the worship of Christ . . .; for the witness of Christ . . ."

Foreign missions.

From the Foreign Mission Board's Volunteers in Missions Department, Dewey Merritt talked about the missions "journey to the ends of the earth" and said that journey must be to all generations, all races, all genders . . . "It must be a journey of commitment, he said, a journey of joy and enthusiasm, a journey with prayer, a journey in going, a journey in giving. It may be a journey of changing your address. 'The journey is for NOW.'"



Carolyn Miller, left, Huntsville, Ala., president of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC; Marjean Patterson, Clinton, center, executive director, Mississippi WMU; and Joan Tyler, Collins, president of Mississippi WMU, form the receiving line for a reception held to honor Miss Patterson, who this year celebrates her 35th year on the staff of state WMU.

Reception honors Marjean Patterson on her 35th year with state WMU

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union during its annual meeting held at Clinton last week celebrated the 35th work anniversary of its executive director, Marjean Patterson.

A reception on Monday evening in Old Fellowship Hall of First Church, Clinton, was given in honor of Miss

Prayer.

Merritt told of a faithful pastor in Zimbabwe who spends much time in prayer. One day he knelt at his home and prayed by name for the missionaries in Zimbabwe. Then he said, "Lord, I'm tired of walking so far to visit all my church members. I need a better way of transportation. Lord, could you give me a bicycle?"

Not long afterward, the treasurer of the Zimbabwe Mission came to him and said, "We have a little money left in the treasury this month, about enough to buy a bicycle. Do you know a pastor who could use one in his work?"

"Coincidence?" Merritt asked. "Hardly."

Music varied.

Song leader and soloist for this meeting was Russell Kyzar, missionary to Costa Rica. His wife, Melinda, was pianist and Mary Simmons, former missionary to the Philippines, played the organ. Pre-session music featured not only the piano and organ but also the violin played by Carolyn Kee of Woodville and the xylophone played by Bobbie Foster of Prentiss. Trumpeters heralded the opening of each session.

Officers re-elected.

Officers re-elected for another term include Joan Tyler, Collins, president; Betty Dobbs, Clinton, vice president; and Vivian Taylor, Clara, secretary.

Patterson. (Sandra Nash is WMU director of First Church.)

During the convention, gifts were presented to Miss Patterson in appreciation for her years of service — a diamond-studded WMU pendant on a silver chain, from WMU members across the state, and a jacket printed with a world map, given by the WMU Executive Board.

Recently Miss Patterson was selected as recipient of a Distinguished Alumni Award from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. In special recognition of this, Bill Causey, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, presented to her a plaque on Monday afternoon during the convention.

A native of Georgia, she is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and Southern Seminary and also has a master's degree from Mississippi College. She began work with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union in 1957.



Melinda Kyzar



WMU members from Broadmoor Church, Jackson, find an outdoor spot to eat the meal served them by the Disaster Unit. Left to right are Sue Dockery; Freda Trott, retired missionary to Brazil; and Lou Stebbins, WMU director at Broadmoor.



The crew of the state Brotherhood Department's Disaster Unit assembles supper plates to feed women attending WMU annual meeting at First Church, Clinton.



Kyzar



Owens



Merritt



Henderson

Keith Parks to retire from FMB over differences with trustees

By Greg Warner

BEDFORD, Texas (ABP) — Keith Parks said March 20 he will leave the presidency of the Foreign Mission Board in October because of his concerns about the agency's direction and his freedom to lead it.

"There are some basic philosophical differences between me and the trustees," Parks told reporters. "I do not feel I exert the kind of leadership expected by some of the trustees."

"I just didn't feel that I could exercise the kind of constructive, positive leadership that is needed," Parks told Associated Baptist Press.

"That is part of the decision."

Parks said he and trustees differ on the role the FMB president should play. Despite assurances of support from trustees, he said, "the perception of what that means was different on their part and on mine." For instance, he said, trustees expect him to exercise more control over the actions of missionaries and staff members than he is willing to do.

In a press conference after the two-day retreat, Parks was not specific about his differences with trustees. But he said the concerns he expressed in a stern speech to trustees in February still apply and influenced his decision to leave.

In his February speech, which prompted the March 19-20 retreat, Parks accused trustees of undermining his leadership and exerting undue influence in the selection of staff and missionaries.

Parks said he "seriously considered" announcing his retirement in

the February session but he "had a little uncertainty" at the time.

Instead he asked trustees in February either to grant him "the option of exerting positive leadership" as president or "to move as quickly as possible to change leadership."

At the time, he warned trustees that Southern Baptists' foreign mission work, which largely had escaped the effects of a decade of denominational controversy, had begun to suffer damage, bringing "change and crisis to our world mission program." He said there had been a "drastic shift" in trustee philosophy, with fundamental-conservative trustees now "expecting theological conformity from those who receive Southern Baptist money."

Although Parks told trustees last year he needed to stay at the FMB until 1995 in order to implement the agency's ambitious plan for global outreach, he said March 20 that no such assurance was forthcoming from trustees. "There has not come the sense of certainty that what I felt needed to be done could be carried out," he told reporters.

The controversy over Parks' leadership and tenure has grown out of a dispute over FMB work in Europe. Trustees ignited an international controversy last October when they withdrew FMB funding of a European Baptist seminary they said was "liberal." Although Baptists on both continents protested the decision, trustees refused in December to restore funding to the Baptist

Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, which was founded by the FMB and staffed mostly by missionaries.

The FMB's top two administrators resigned in protest in January.

It is unclear what effect Parks' unexpected retirement will have on the Southern Baptist Convention as a whole, which is already deeply divided. In recent years, fundamental-conservatives have gained control of the convention and its agencies, including the FMB trustee board.

Both Parks and Hancock expressed concern about the effect Parks' retirement would have on the FMB's 3,900 missionaries serving in 122 countries.

Hancock called on the missionaries to "rely on Lord" to affirm their service with the FMB. He said the FMB remains committed to the same mission principles under which those missionaries were appointed. "I believe that these 3,900 people responded to God's call and put their trust in the board... on the basis of those principles," he said.

Parks said he is concerned about the missionaries but predictions that many would now leave the field are exaggerated. "There may be some fallout," he said, "but I don't think this decision will have the repercussions that some have surmised." He predicted his retirement would not change the trustees' relationship with the missionaries, at least for now.

Warner is editor of Associated Baptist Press.

Evangelist calls Noriega "brother in the Lord"

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — As prosecution in the drug trafficking trial of Manuel Noriega nears an end, a Texas evangelist says, "Whatever the court decision, we have a brother in the Lord."

Rudy Hernandez, vocational evangelist based in San Antonio, Texas, has visited Noriega several times while the deposed leader of Panama waited for his trial.

Hernandez was with Noriega May 15, 1990, when Noriega made a profession of faith. Hernandez says repeated visits with Noriega have convinced him Noriega was sincere.

The last visit Hernandez had with Noriega was in December and he plans to see Noriega again in April. Hernandez said during his December visit, one of the prison guards, who is a Christian, told him, "There is no question that Gen. Noriega is born again."

Also on his last visit, Hernandez said Noriega showed him his Bible and it was covered with notes from Noriega's personal Bible study.

During their last visit, "General Noriega told me that he felt strengthened in the strength of the Lord," Hernandez said. "He wanted me to thank everyone who has prayed for him. But I asked him to pray for us."

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

At least 138 American towns have "Angel" in their name.



Ken Hemphill

Hemphill would report directly to President Larry Lewis of the HMB and President James T. Draper Jr. of the SSB.

Directors appointed 19 new missionaries, voted to increase the 1992 HMB budget by \$963,349 to an adjusted total of \$85.7 million, and restructured the HMB language church extension division by combining the language church development and ethnic resource correlation departments.

Newton writes for HMB. Linda Lawson, who writes for BSSB, also contributed to this story.

Home Board plans expansion of headquarters building

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP) — Directors of the Home Mission Board elected new officers, approved plans to expand the size of a new headquarters building to be completed by 1995, and elected Ken Hemphill of Norfolk, Va., to a new position as director of church growth.

Board members also elected a director of the board's human resources division, an associate in the new church extension division, and a national manager for Mega Focus Cities, the HMB's coordinated strategy planning process for missions work in 44 major cities in America.

Daniel Garcia, a human resource management consultant with 15 years experience in the field, was elected director of the human resources division. Gerald S. Raynor, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Flagstaff, Ariz., was named associate director of field servicing for the new church extension division. M. Eugene Wilson, director of missions for Calvary-Arrowhead Association in Riverside, Calif., was elected national manager of Mega Focus Cities.

Hemphill, pastor of First Church of Norfolk, would coordinate church growth efforts by the Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board, contingent upon approval by the Sunday School Board.

The newly-created position will be jointly funded by the Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board, upon approval from both boards.

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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

The place: Clinton

"You've got shoes"

"All God's Chillun Got Shoes." Is that the way the song goes? Joyce Mitchell, associate executive director, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, talked about shoes last week at the WMU convention in Clinton.

As there are different management styles, she said, so there are certain shoe styles that are needed for missions involvement where we are. According to Joyce, the basics of footwear are:

1. Reeboks — essential to be called for missions: action shoes for disaster relief work; shoes not afraid of getting dirty.

2. Fluffy bedroom slippers — for rising early, having prayer time, reading mission books, writing missionaries, preparing for Baptist Women or Girls in Action meetings.

3. WMU shoes — low-heeled and comfortable; always in style for teaching mission study, conducting training sessions, or for teaching conversational English.

4. Crepe soled loafers — quiet, for visiting hospitals or for making community surveys or for driving the church van to take meals to the elderly.

5. Reinforced steel-toed boots — for work in construction, painting, cleanup, or other physically hard work.

6. Spectator pumps — never needed: no standing on sidelines as a spectator allowed.

"Here in Mississippi," she said, "put on suitable shoes and begin your ministry. You can't do everything. Find God's plan for you. You are not responsible for meeting every need, just the ones God calls you to. You have the right shoes. What about service?"

What children need

Three members of the Baptist Record editor's family made valuable contributions last week to the program of the WMU annual meeting. His son-in-law, Russell Kyzar, missionary to Costa Rica, directed the congregational singing and presented special music. His daughter, Melinda Kyzar, played the piano. Both Kyzars took part in a panel discussion, "Called... to Family Missions," and the editor's wife, Lois, was featured speaker on the topic, "Accountable... in Family Missions."

Guy and Lois, of Clinton, former missionaries to Korea and the Philippines, are parents of four children and grandparents of seven. She said, "Our philosophy was:

"Children need our love more than our money or the things it can buy.

"Children need to know that God loves them more than we do and that he has a plan for their lives.

"Children need older Christians to be their friends, counselors, and guides. You are accountable if God has gifted you in this area.

"Children need to see their parents walk what they talk, and see them studying God's Word and praying.

"Children need to be brought into family worship; to establish their own devotional lives; to learn that the Word of God does have the answers for their problems and that God does answer prayer.

"Children need opportunities to serve the Lord — beyond their church doors — to get a vision of how Christ can change lives.

"We believe strong Christian families share mutual appreciation, time spent together, good communication, commitment, and lots of love."

Imploring hands

Myrtice Owens, nurse, retired missionary to Namibia, told WMU members about early years in Africa when she and her husband would travel to many villages, miles and miles over rough roads. At night, they would sleep in the back of their pickup truck. By day they would counsel, witness, teach, heal, help.

Once a man came to meet them and asked if they would go to his village. Since they had a full schedule, at first they said no. Yet he insisted, and they could not say no. By the time they reached his place, it was 9 o'clock at night. They said, "We will begin work in the morning."

But the man said, "No, come now. They have been waiting since noon."

Owens remembered, "I noticed the glowing coals here and there, left from fires where people had cooked their supper. And as I walked through the darkness, I could only see in the dim firelight the hands reaching out..."

All over the world, imploring hands reach out to us.

Ondie Brum reports on Russia: 2,300 professions of faith

Ondie Brum, evangelist from Baytown, Tex., has just returned from Russia and brings this report: He was in the Moldavian Province in southwest Russia. There he saw 2,300 people profess Jesus as their Savior, literally running down the aisle to make public their decisions, "so hungry for the Word." Brum said, "I was so overwhelmed I had to sit down."

Brum also met the heads of education for 12 provinces of the Russian republic. They invited him (and others) to go into 63,000 schools there and tell the children about the Lord, then use the schools on the weekends to preach to the parents. People in Russia are like a "dry desert," thirsty for the Lord, Brum said.

Born in Austria, Brum describes himself as the result of a Nazi soldier raping his mother. Rejected by his mother, he watched as his grandparents were shipped off to Siberia. Later he came to the USA where he went into drugs and crime. He was sent to prison at 18. He accepted Christ and was called to preach.

Brum spoke to the state Evangelism Conference in January. This report was called in to the Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. — GH

Home Board directors decline Freemasonry study

ATLANTA (BP) — Directors of the Home Mission Board declined a request from the Southern Baptist Convention to study the teachings of Masonic lodges, referring the issue back to the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

"We feel like no agency has a right to pass judgement on personal behavior choices like this," said Johnny Jackson, chairman of the HMB's board of directors after its March meeting.

Last year, a motion presented at the SBC in Atlanta asked the HMB's Interfaith Witness Department to compare Masonic teachings with Christian doctrine. The motion was referred by the convention's committee on order of business to the Home Mission Board for consideration.

The vote by the HMB board of directors at its March meeting takes no action on the requested study and asks messengers to address the potentially divisive matter at this year's convention in Indianapolis, June 9-11.

Some Southern Baptists contend Masonic teachings, or Freemasonry, are contrary to Christian doctrine.

But many Baptists are Masons and some board members said condemning Masonic membership would cause strife within the convention.

The Home Mission Board's Interfaith Witness Department issues position papers on religions, sects, and cults. But that department's job is to

study established religions, not fraternal organizations, said department head Gary Leazer.

This was the second time the Home Mission Board voted against investigating the fraternal order.

In 1985, a messenger to the annual convention proposed a four-page resolution blasting Masons as a "spiritually devastating and ungodly brotherhood of satanic darkness."

The resolution was referred to the Home Mission Board which, in turn, authorized a study by its Interfaith Witness Department.

As a result, the board simply concluded "Freemasonry does not fall within the scope of assigned responsibility of the Home Mission Board."

The issue resurfaced last year with a call for a new investigation by the Interfaith Witness Department, "apart from any employees that are in a position to be influenced by Masonic members of the Home Mission Board or otherwise."

Chairman Jackson said he thinks most Southern Baptists don't care about Freemasonry.

"It's those who are extremist or militant on either side of the issue who have caused whatever divisiveness that has occurred," he said.

Some board members, however, disagreed.

"I think we have the resources within the Interfaith Witness Department to have responded a little more

thoroughly," said Walter Collett, of Columbia, Md.

In a November 1991 survey of church leaders, 37% of the pastors asked said the Southern Baptist Convention should have an official statement on Freemasonry.

Sixty percent of the pastors said it wasn't important at all to have a statement or had no opinion, according to the poll, taken by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Forty-nine percent of the pastors said Freemasonry and Christianity have at least some conflict. Seventy-one percent of pastors said their church has never dealt with the issue.

Among the denominations which have taken a stand against Freemasonry is the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, U.S.A.

Eldon Winker, director of that denomination's Commission of Organizations, said Masonic teachings oppose Christianity because they offer members "a hope of eternal reward based on living a virtuous life."

About a half-dozen denominations have issued statements on Freemasonry, said Leazer, who contends it is not a religion even if a minority of members treat it as such.

"It really is a place where grown up men can play like boys," said Leazer. "It's certainly not anything we want to divide the convention over."



Opening doors for disabled Christians

More than 36 million people in the United States have some form of disability. This number includes children born with disabilities, people who have been in accidents, others who develop debilitating diseases, and older people who experience decreased mobility or sensory perception. Traditionally, churches have lagged far behind business and public institutions in eliminating barriers to full participation by wheelchair users. Because Christians with disabilities need to continue to contribute to and enjoy fellowship and support of the church, access to church facilities must be available to them. A victim of muscular dystrophy, Monica Cross, pictured above, is an outspoken advocate for the rights of those with disabilities. For free literature on how to develop ministries for the disabled, contact customer service at the Home Mission Board by calling 1-800-634-2462. Request product numbers 36619-F and 63242-F. (Photo by Laura Sykes.)

Gratitude gift goes to Drummonds

By Herb Hollinger

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Trustees of Southeastern Seminary accepted President Lewis A. Drummond's retirement request and voted to give him a \$107,250 cash gift plus other benefits.

In addition, Drummond, 65, will receive the car the seminary has been providing him plus furnishings from the president's residence equal to his \$27,000 contribution when the house was remodeled and enlarged.

Those and other actions came during the first day of a March 9-10 regular trustees' meeting on the Wake Forest campus.

Drummond announced his retirement in January following a four-hour closed-door session with the trustees' executive committee on campus.

He will leave June 30 but is expected

to teach evangelism at another school, possibly Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Omitted from the final package was a seven-month sabbatical leave base salary which would have been added to a gift of one year's base salary of \$72,500. Privately, a trustee said the package would have amounted to a \$122,000 gift which a number of trustees opposed.

Calvin Partain of Gallup, N.M., said trustees agreed the sabbatical salary was not "fitting." Although he voted for the final package, Partain conceded the gratitude gift was "a lot of money. But I'm not sure that I'd go through what he's been through for \$100,000."

Also missing from the original proposal was a portrait of the president "mutually agreed to (by Drummond) with the chairman of the trustees" and the honorary title of chancellor.

Faculty members balked at the chancellor's title, citing in a statement relayed to the trustees, among other things, that it was not in the best interests of shared governance with the faculty or other constituencies of the seminary; that it seemed inappropriate since two previous presidents are still living and have not been given that title; and that a potential conflict of interest if Drummond accepts a position with another seminary or divinity school.

Hollinger is director of Baptist Press.

Foundation sends check to BJC

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Baptist Foundation sent a check for \$81,036 to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs March 11, according to Foundation President Hollis E. Johnson III.

The amount is the "accumulated growth of the principal" on the disputed funds held by the foundation and per instructions given the foundation by the SBC Executive Committee in February. Johnson contends the foundation acts as an agent for the

\$300,000 fund principal, not as the trustee, and thus had asked the Executive Committee for instructions in the matter.

The principal amount was given in 1968 by the Southern Baptist Convention as a capital expenditure. But who gets the amount has been disputed with the BJCPA, a religious liberty lobby in Washington, and the SBC Christian Life Commission, both claiming ownership.

Florida Fellowship doubles since 1991

ORLANDO (ABP) — Baptists are being called "back to the future," John Hewett told more than 700 people attending the second annual meeting of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Florida.

Attendance for this year's meeting at College Park Baptist Church in Orlando more than doubled attendance at last year's meeting.

During the Feb. 13 gathering, participants explored several alternatives to traditional Southern Baptist structures through workshops, worshipped together, and heard reports on the Fellowship's progress.

Hewett, pastor of First Church in Asheville, N.C., and moderator for the national Cooperative Baptist

Fellowship, brought the keynote address.

"I believe God has called us back to the future," Hewett said, "and that God has something in store for us that we have only yet begun to dream."

"We've come here tonight to talk about a better future and a more honest future, and a more Baptist future," he said. "We've spent too many of our years arguing with each other over who got to go, as an excuse for not going. We've spent too much of our time wrangling over who gets to be first in the bucket brigade while the house across the street is burning down."

Hewett told the group he had come to the conclusion there is nothing he

can do to change the direction of the Southern Baptist Convention's new conservative leadership.

"I do not know how to live in a denomination where Keith Parks, Carolyn Weatherford, Duke McCall, and Roy Honeycutt are symbols of unbelief," he said. "I do not know how to live in a denomination where the college that took me from ignorance and set me on a road toward theological accountability is maligned by people who have never set foot on its campus."

The 1987 Franingham Heart Study says non-church going women have 20 times the heart attack risk of church-going women.

Texas conservatives launch paper

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP) — Citing their desire to provide a "balanced and objective" news source for Southern Baptists in Texas, leaders of the Texas Baptist Conservative Fellowship plan to launch the first issue of a statewide newsletter within the next week.

The Texas Baptist Conservative Newsletter will be published "monthly officially, but unofficially we aspire to publish twice a month," said Perry Ellis, executive editor of the newsletter and executive director of the conservative fellowship.

Sample copies of the newsletter are being reviewed by the executive committee of the Texas Baptist Conser-

vative Fellowship, and the first issue is expected to be mailed to all Southern Baptist pastors in Texas during the week of March 8.

Ellis, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil and now a member of First Church of Dallas, emphasized the publication is needed to give Texas Baptists "balanced and objective" information.

However, he stopped short of saying the newsletter is in direct competition with the Baptist Standard, weekly newsjournal of Texas Baptists.

Camp is public relations director of Baptist General Convention of Texas.



Christianity done a great injustice

Editor:

I know it's your job to report the news for the Baptist Record, but I think you have really done Christianity a great injustice for printing the article concerning the church in North Carolina blessing homosexuality. God forbids this type of behavior, "tragically." You do not realize what a problem this proposes on Southern Baptists when other religions look at this type of publicity. I know because I come from a Mormon background. This makes it so easy for people to ridicule Christianity.

Please weigh the odds before you do this again and stop to ask yourself if this would please our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This church should be banned from the Southern Baptist Convention, and I do hope this comes up at the Convention this summer.

Thanks for allowing me to have a say concerning our blessed Savior's name. He did die for our sins, you know.

Dorothy Whitehead
Summit

Publicize terminating churches

Editor:

Concerning Tim Nicholas' article, "Terminations: 'Not all due to mean deacons,'" of March 5, 1992: The tenure of this article was very generous, in fact too generous to a minority of individuals.

I understand it was not the intent to encourage "terminating deacons." But the possibility looms larger than you might realize.

The approximately 116 SBC pastors who find themselves terminated today by a "secret vote of a secret self-appointed group" draw little consolation and comfort from the fact that all deacons do not become involved in this ungodly and unbiblical terminating practice.

May I simply ask where have all these conflict experts suddenly evolved from? I venture to observe from their superfluous recommendations none have incurred this cruel and unusual suffering, nor the cold shoulder from too many brethren who often harbor a tiny degree of suspicion of possible guilt!

The PR suggestion seems to pale in significance in comparison to the real life issue.

It's just as normal for pastors to build trusting relationships as it is to prepare sermons, visitations, etc.

The percentage of terminated men today because of bad PR is hardly negligible.

The folks who deserve termination are hardly in the limelight of Swaggert and Bakker.

One competent recommenda-

tion habitually overlooked by these conflict experts is to publicize these "terminating churches" in the Baptist Record on a regular basis. We could, in turn, include them on our regular prayer calendars with our missionaries. This will save the demeaning, degrading trauma for some good man in the future. This will also hopefully prompt internal revival and review some of the true Christ-honoring mission of the church.

Terminators are not redemptive ministries or a community of Christian fellowship the Lord Jesus Christ envisioned for his church.

Jesus said, "This is my church," maybe this could be a good reference point or reminder.

Finally, it would "increase their awareness of the dynamics of human relationships" (author). "How shall they hear without a preacher?" "But they (terminators) have not obeyed the gospel" (Rom. 10:14a, 16b).

Name withheld by the editor

Alaska needs you

Editor:

Six men are needed to join a crew going to Juneau, Alaska July 6-17, 1992 to reroof three buildings, tear out and rebuild some kitchen cabinets, pour a concrete walkway, build porches to connect existing buildings, build a long walkway down a hill consisting of about 30 steps, and possibly do some painting. The total cost is \$600 each, and the volunteer must be willing to fly out of Jackson. For more information, contact Olyn F. Roberts at 263-4886.

Baptist Volunteer Mission Builders, Inc.
Mathiston

Appalled at violation

Editor:

I have been a Christian for some 16 years, and am an active member and deacon at Antioch Church in Columbus. I am totally appalled at the fact that some churches associated with the Southern Baptist Convention have stooped so low as to allow homosexuals into their church, and for allowing a "ceremony of blessing." It should be called a "ceremony of blasphemy."

As Christians we must attack this sin like all other sins, as a direct disobedience against our Lord, and stand firm on his Word. Forgiving sinners is not the issue, but we cannot condone such a flagrant act against God. This just will not be tolerated by God and if we as Southern Baptists have any smarts in us, we need to take such a stand.

It may be true that the churches within the Southern Baptist Convention are left to govern themselves, but we or no one else have the authority to change God's laws to meet our lifestyles.

With the Convention meeting soon, our leaders in the Convention must not stop at just condemning this action. If these churches choose to violate our Lord's commandments, then I say we who do not believe in these acts remove ourselves from their midst.

God will not bless this action and he will not bless those who stand by and let it continue. There are two choices, and only two choices — God or mammon. Let's choose God.

Mike Meggs
Columbus

Thai cremations do provide opportunity

Editor:

My pastor passed on an article to me entitled "Thai cremations offer witness opportunity" in the March 5 Baptist Record. It made me want to share the experience I had at my father's funeral. I am a Thai and have lived in America for 20 years. I became a Christian in 1982 and in 1988 my father in Thailand passed away. I went to the funeral not for my father's sake, but for my remaining unsaved family. I wanted to be there for them to show the love of Christ. I had been praying for them and sharing with them about Christ ever since I became a Christian.

The funeral was difficult for me. As a Christian I knew all the rituals were contrary to what the Bible teaches and wanted no part of it. At the same time the rituals meant a lot to my unsaved family, and they pressured me to perform certain rituals against my better judgment. I felt I was in real spiritual and physical warfare. But the Word of God reminded me to "Put on the whole armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes..." (Eph. 6:11-17).

However, God provided many wide open doors for me to share openly with my family and others about the truth in the Bible. It was the funeral that started my younger sister questioning the Buddhist religion. It didn't seem right to her that it depended on one's wealth and the wealth of those left behind to purchase merit to gain a higher heaven in the next life for the dead. The poor are left with no hope.

Soon after, my younger sister became a Christian. A year later my mother and older sister also accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. I praise God that now I have the spiritual fellowship with my family that I prayed six years for. I always wondered what it would be like. Now I know it's wonderful! Praise God, "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

Sakchai Adkins
Rockport, Texas

A tale of two lives

By Margaret Howard Rogers

Genesis 22:16-18: "Because thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son... I will bless thee... and in thy seed shall all nations... be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."



Rogers

Matthew 19:22: "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful for he had great possessions."

Never has there been more contrast than in these two lives, though there are some similarities. Only a few verses in the New Testament are devoted to the rich young ruler and his encounter with Jesus. Approximately 13 chapters in the Old Testament record the life of Abraham and his encounters with God.

Some space is devoted to the naming and renaming of Abraham, called the Father of Multitudes and also a friend of God, while the rich young ruler's name is not even mentioned. Equal opportunity was given to each; a sacrifice was required of each.

Abraham, in many ways, towers above all other men in the Old Testament. Three great religions claim him as founder: Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. He was a man of faith, at times even a man whose faith was not always quite strong enough. The greatest test of his life was when God called him to offer up his child of promise, Isaac.

We cannot speak of this incident without being reminded of God offering his own Son on Calvary. God provided a lamb in Isaac's case, but there was no lamb to take Jesus' place. He was the lamb.

Alas, the rich young ruler who loved his possessions too much to obey Jesus' command went on his way sorrowful. Abraham's obedience and faithfulness invoked the blessings of a God to all nations. One went away sorrowful, the other experienced the fulfillment and commendations of God.

Rogers lives in Collins, and is Sunday School teacher at Salem Church, Collins.

La. Baptists open new Sellers addition

By Jim Newton

TALLULAH, La. (BP) — Louisiana Baptists dedicated a 13,000-square-foot "Happy House" for Sellers Baptist Maternity Home March 7, the same day a new baby was born to an unwed mother residing at the home.

Operation of the Sellers Home, located in New Orleans for 58 years, was transferred from the Home Mission Board to the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home in Monroe, La., on Jan. 1, 1992.

More than 500 people attended the dedication program in Tallulah, a small town of about 12,000 residents in northeast Louisiana about 50 miles east of Monroe and 25 miles west of Vicksburg, Miss.

During the first 58 years of its operation in New Orleans, a total of 6,539 women utilized the services of Sellers Home. A total of 2,996 babies were born to women helped through the Sellers Home in New Orleans, and 2,355 of these were adopted through the adoption program at Sellers.

Newton writes for HMB.

1909 — There were five chapters of Royal Ambassadors reported at the annual WMU Convention.

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NEEDED: Mature Summer CAMP DIRECTOR (male or female or couple to serve as director/counselor). Five weeks of camp July 6-August 7. Minimum requirements — 1 year college, 21 years old. Camping experience helpful, but not necessary. Camp located in Charleston area. Send cover letter and resume to David Crowe, Route 1, Box 27-A, Enis, MS 38927. (601) 623-7910. Must be received by April 1.

Just for the Record



"Gift of Song" is a contemporary Christian vocal ensemble from the Baptist Student Union at Ole Miss. Directed by students Lisa Thompson and Suzanne Oakley, they will be performing at the Youth Coed Missions Convention on April 10-11 at Mississippi College. Members of the group are: Russell

Barnes, Jennifer Townsend, Lee Sanders, Lisa Thompson, Tim Bumpus, Suzanne Oakley, Corey Tutor, Jennifer Ayers, Quint Harris, Paula Dobbs, Eric Dennis, Laura Beth McDaniel, and Jay Hodges.

There will be a benefit gospel concert for Randy Foster of Monticello who needs a heart transplant and is unable to get insurance coverage on his heart. Randy and his family are active members of Monticello Baptist Church. The concert will be March 28, at 5 p.m. and will feature the Continentals, Sherrod Rayborn and The Trio, and Benji and the Divide Trio. It will be at the Family Life Center of the Monticello Methodist Protestant Church. For further information, call 833-6932 or 587-2141.

The Wind Ensemble, a select instrumental group from Southwestern Seminary will perform in Clinton April 1, at 3 p.m. in Aven Auditorium on the Mississippi College campus. Admission is free and the recital is open to the public.

Seminar will help SS directors

The state Sunday School Department will sponsor a seminar to help church Sunday School directors better understand and cope with their responsibilities of leading the Bible teaching organization of the church.

The seminar will be April 3-4, at the Baptist Building in Jackson. Church Sunday School directors are asked to contact the Sunday School Department by phone (968-3800) prior to April 3 to indicate their attendance at the seminar. The \$10 registration fee (payable at the door) will cover supper on Friday

Castlewoods Church, Brandon, will have a note burning celebration on Sunday, March 29 at 11 a.m. The paying off of the note on the educational building allows the church to be debt free. This note burning will celebrate the growth and progress of Castlewoods as the church is now planning to begin new construction to provide additional worship and educational space. The theme for the day is "Together We Did... Together We Can." A special part of the day will be a love offering showing the commitment to the next building phase.

Riverside Church, Long Beach, will present The Dixie Echoes in concert, March 28 at 7 p.m. For information, call 452-7878.

Terry Road Church, Jackson, will present the Pearl Quartet in concert at 7 p.m., March 29.

Horseshoe Church, Tchula, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on March 29 at 10:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be James Carr of Cleveland, Tenn. A covered dish will be served in fellowship hall. Saturday activities include sharing and visiting at 3 p.m., fish fry at 5 p.m., and singing at 6 p.m. Rob Futral is pastor.

Children, grades 1-6 will present concert at MC Coliseum

The public is invited to a concert by Baptist children in grades 1-6 on Saturday, April 4 at 1 p.m. The concert will take place at the Mississippi College coliseum in Clinton.

Choral director will be Rhonda Edge-Buesche, who teaches at Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth.

The program includes "Great Redeemer We Adore Thee," "Sing of His Marvelous Ways," "Feed My Lambs," "This I Know," "I Never Touched a Rainbow," and "Fairest Lord Jesus."

Bi-vocational small church meet is set

A Bi-vocational/Small Church Conference will take place at New Orleans Seminary, Apr. 10-11. Its purpose is to uplift the image of bivocational ministers, equip ministers in bivocational churches, and help them meet family needs under occupational pressures.

Speakers include Jimmy McCaleb, a contract consultant with the Church Music Department, MBCB; James Nelson, a California pastor; James Greer, bivocational representative; John Shanks of the Annuity Board; and Lloyd Sweatt, deacon family minister.

The conference is endowed by the late John Peyton Holcomb, a Mississippi native who served as a public school principal and teacher and as a rural church pastor. The cost to participants is \$10 if received by April 9, \$20 for walk-ins. Spouses attend free.

Write the Office of Continuing Education, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.

1912 — Miss Margaret M. Lackey was named corresponding secretary of the Women's Missionary Union department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. She held this post until 1930.

The S.S.S. (Super Senior Singers) of the L.L.L. (Live Long and Like It) of First Church, Columbus recently traveled to Macon. The group ate lunch at the Oak Tree Inn and then visited a member's sister, who is an invalid. While at her home the choir sang several familiar hymns. Wayne Jackson is the leader and Jeannine Fraser is his assistant.

The word "smile" doesn't appear in the King James Version.

Arts in April Festival is scheduled in Clinton

The first Community/College Arts in April Festival is scheduled throughout next month in Clinton. The city and Mississippi College are co-sponsoring a diverse number of activities designed to enhance the arts.

Program highlights include an ecclesiastical arts exhibit, art and opera workshops, talent shows, a circus, the state handbell festival, and a Shakespeare festival. Most events are free.

The ecclesiastical arts exhibit will be April 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and again the next day from 1-4 p.m. in the courtyard of Jennings Hall at MC. It will feature Romanian artist Liviu Mocan, a bronze relief sculptor; Andy Young, a stained glass artist; Kenneth Quinn, assemblage sculptor; O. C. McDavid, welded metal sculptor; Louis Walsh, potter; and Jean Kenny, castpaper sculptor — prismacolor/watercolor.

On April 3 at 10 a.m. in Provine

Chapel, Boris Notkin, professor of rhetoric at the University of Moscow and television anchorman and commentator for "Good Evening Moscow," will speak.

The Akin Lectureship on April 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Room at MC will feature Joe Cooper as lecturer.

On April 10 at noon on the quad at MC the Royal Liechtenstein Quarter Ring Circus will perform.

The Mississippi Baptist Handbell Festival will take place on April 25 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and the Mississippi College Chorale with orchestra will perform on April 26 at 3 p.m. in Provine Chapel.

Throughout the month there will be exhibits of Sam Gore's artwork in Latimer House.

For a complete schedule of these and other events, contact Susie Jordan, assistant to the president at MC, at 925-3933.

Carey College hosts Preview Day

William Carey College will host Spring Preview Days on both the Hattiesburg and Gulfport campuses for high school and junior college students. The Hattiesburg Preview Day is scheduled for April 4 while the Gulfport Preview Day will be April 11.

The programs will give students an opportunity to tour the campuses and meet with academic, financial aid/scholarship, and admissions counselors.

Registration for the Hattiesburg Preview Day will begin at 9:30 a.m. April 4 in the Thomas Business Building. Events scheduled include a

barbecue lunch and free tickets to an afternoon baseball game featuring the Crusades against Spring Hill College.

The Gulfport Preview Day begins at 9 a.m. April 11 with registration begin held in Parker Hall. Scheduled events included lunch by the pool, an art display in the Sarah Gillespie Gallery, and an exhibition soccer game.

For further information, contact the admissions office on the Hattiesburg campus at 800-962-5991 or 601-582-6103 or contact the Gulfport campus at 601-865-1500.

Staff changes

Oak Grove Church, Mendenhall, has called Donald R. Kleeb as pastor effective Feb. 16. His previous place of service was Shady Grove Church in Smith County. Kleeb received his education at University of New Orleans and New Orleans Seminary.

County Line, Mendenhall, has called Darren Miley of Crystal Springs as minister of youth. His previous place of service was Central Hills Retreat, Kosciusko. He received his education at Clarke College and is currently enrolled in New Orleans Seminary.

Okahola Church installed Bill Osborn, Christian psychologist at the Sassafras Hill Counseling Center, as its interim pastor on March 8. The Okahola Church serves a largely rural community in the Black Creek Basin between Oak Grove and Purvis. Osborn conducts services on Sundays and Wednesday nights.

Donald R. Silkwood has accepted the call as pastor of Stevens Chapel Church as of March 8, in Smithfield, N.C. He was pastor of New Ireland Church, Union, Newton County. Silkwood is a graduate of Clarke College and Mississippi College. He is now attending Southeastern Seminary.

North McComb Church, McComb, has called Stacey E. Pickering as minister of youth effective Feb. 23. A native of Laurel, he received his education at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and New Orleans Seminary. He worked at Central Hills Retreat in Kosciusko.

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A conference for training leaders in vocational guidance will take place April 11, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

Conference leader will be Donna Gandy, a consultant in church staff support at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. She is compiling a book on church related vocational opportunities to be released in the fall.

Purpose of the meeting is to train leaders in vocational guidance to help persons interested in church vocations so these leaders, in turn, can train church leadership for this task.

Topics to be discussed include responding to God's Call, Nurturing the Called, Preparing for Ministry, Discovering God's Will, Identifying Personal Strengths, and Using

Counseling Instruments.

Cost is \$7 per person. Register with the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Lunch that day is on your own.

Senior adult corner

The S.S.S. (Super Senior Singers) of the L.L.L. (Live Long and Like It) of First Church, Columbus recently traveled to Macon. The group ate lunch at the Oak Tree Inn and then visited a member's sister, who is an invalid. While at her home the choir sang several familiar hymns. Wayne Jackson is the leader and Jeannine Fraser is his assistant.

The word "smile" doesn't appear in the King James Version.

Names in the news



Members of the Women of Clarke organization prepared boxes of toilet articles and other supplies. These items were donated by WOC to Mark McDonald, Newton County pastor, who recently served in a short-term mission effort in Guatemala. Pictured, left to right, are Mary Burt, Gail Hollingsworth, Joyce Zeigler, and Evelyn Williams.

The Mississippi College Department of Music will present Nell Adams, mezzo soprano, in graduate voice recital on March 31, at 8:15 p.m. in Spell Auditorium of Provine Chapel on campus.

Joe H. Barber, Jr., of Clinton, vice-president for business affairs at Mississippi College, received a full-page "spotlight" in the latest issue of the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers (SACUBO) magazine. Barber has been a member of the Mississippi College administration since 1973. In 1984 he was elected president of the SACUBO after rising through the vice-presidential ranks. He also served as secretary in 1976 and third vice-president in 1981. Barber currently serves as archivist of SACUBO and is the keeper of all the proceedings and executive committee minutes. He is a member of First Church of Clinton, where he serves as a deacon and Sunday School worker.

Joe Cooper, the M. O. Patterson Professor of Religion and Philosophy, emeritus, at Mississippi College, will be the 1992 Edward Akin lecturer at Mississippi College. Cooper will speak on "History, Philosophy, and the Christian Faith" at 6:30 p.m., April 6, in the B.C. Rogers Student Center. There will be no admission fee. The Akin Lectureship was established by the Mississippi College faculty in 1990 to honor the life, scholarship, and teaching of Edward Nelson Akin, professor of history and political science, who taught for 13 years at the college before his untimely death in September 1991. Cooper taught at Mississippi College for 34 years.



Cooper

Nurses invited to "Getaway"



Carlson

Harbin

Members of the Mississippi Baptist Nursing Fellowship are invited to participate in a Spring Getaway Day at First Church, Louisville, on April 11. The activities will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Missionary speaker will be Dora Harbin, missionary to Sao Paulo, Brazil. Enrichment speaker will be Carrie Carlson, staff counselor at First Church, Jackson.

Mrs. Harbin has served as clinical instructor at the School of Nursing, Southern Baptist Hospital in Hattiesburg. Since 1983, she has coordinated hunger relief projects in Sao Paulo directing projects in a medical clinic, goodwill center, and four children's homes.

Mrs. Carlson has done summer mission work in Honduras and has served four years as director of the Clinton Community Christian Corporation.

Special music for the day will be led by Pat Siddon, minister of music at Arcola Church.

The Getaway Day is sponsored by Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, MBCB. It is coordinated by Kaye Wilson, program chair for the fellowship. There is a \$5 registration fee that includes lunch. To register, write: WMU, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, before April 8.

Church building conferences set

A series of church building conferences will take place in three Mississippi cities in April.

The first will be at 38th Ave. Church, Hattiesburg, on April 13; the second at the Hinds-Madison Association Building on April 14; and the third at Emmanuel Church, Grenada on April 16.

Each will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 that afternoon. Lunch is complimentary. Participants are asked to preregister with Church Building Services of the Mississippi Baptist

Convention Board at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Topics will include the Building Process; Building for Worship, Education and Fellowship; the Construction Team; The Financial Package; Services Available from the Denomination; and Working with Architects.

James Cartwright, a field consultant with the Sunday School Board's Church Architecture Department, will be on the program and available for consultation after the conclusion of the meeting.

Bill Tanksley dies

William H. "Bill" Tanksley, 54, pastor of Edgefield Church in Attala Association died March 17. He spent 20 years in the U.S. Army and after retirement pastored several churches in Mississippi. He is survived by his wife Melba and three grown children.

Pastor's wife dies

Joann Walls, 35, wife of Mickey Walls, pastor of Pulaski Church, died Thursday, March 20. Funeral service was Saturday in Vardaman. She is survived by two daughters, 13 and 16 years of age.

Colston will travel to recruit missionaries

Southern Baptist missionary Billy Colston of Fayette, Ala., has joined the Foreign Mission Board's missionary enlistment department for a few months. Between March and July Colston will travel throughout Mississippi urging pastors to consider becoming foreign missionaries. He and his wife Geraldine, are missionaries to



Colston

South Korea. Colston's furlough address is 704 Ponderosa, Starkville, Miss., 39759. He can be reached by telephone at (601) 323-4216.

Missionary is "American outside, Thai inside"

At the Thai Baptist Youth Fellowship camp, made up of four Baptist groups — Southern, American, Karen, and Lahu — missionary Bob Stewart met a young Baptist woman from Kentucky. She had married a Thai student who was in the same college with her and he had brought her back with him to Thailand. She had two handsome little boys whom she took to the camp with her.

On meeting Bob she said that she had been looking forward to meeting him. Some Thai/Chinese young people in her church had told her, "At this camp you are going to meet a missionary who is American on the outside, but he is Thai on the inside!"

Every day she made a point of taking her two little boys to see "Granddaddy Bob" and for them to spend a little time with him. "I thank God for calling us so clearly to Thailand," said Bob, "and helping us to become more and more Thai on the inside."

Lottie Moon goals set

Mantee Church, Webster Association exceeded its Lottie Moon Goal. The goal was \$11,500 and total offering received was \$12,048.53. Malcolm Pinion is pastor.

The secret of happiness is this: Let your interests be as wide as possible, and let your reactions to the things and persons that interest you be, as far as possible, friendly rather than hostile. — Bertrand Russell.



Library officers plan fall meeting

State officers of Church Media Library Organization met Feb. 20 at the Baptist Building to plan the program for the November annual meeting to be held at First Church, Greenville. Back, standing left to right: pres., Sharon Neff, Greenville; VP, Agatha Sandridge, Brookhaven; sec.-treas., Joan Dorris, Madison; program chairman, Dixie Hicks, Greenville; ex officio, Sandra Fitts, past president, Corinth. Seated: Keith Williams; Joan Beasley, Wesson; Juanita Hight, Louisville; Faye Miller, Hattiesburg.

Chapman gives Staley Lectures

Morris H. Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and new president/treasurer-elect of the SBC Executive Committee, visited Clinton on Mar. 24 and 25 as Staley Lecturer at Mississippi College.

Chapman, a 1963 graduate of Mississippi College and a native of Kosciusko, addressed a banquet on Tuesday night in the Hall of Fame Room of the B.C. Rogers Student

Center. He addressed the faculty, staff, and student body during Wednesday chapel services in Swor Auditorium of Nelson Hall, and preached at the prayer meeting service of First Church, Clinton Wednesday night.

Chapman also opened the Wednesday session of the Mississippi Legislature with prayer.

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Revival dates

Midway Church, Vardaman: April 1-3; services, 7 p.m.; Steve Bain, East Heights Church, Tupelo, evangelist; Barry Tice, East Heights Church, music; Ralph Cain, pastor.

Trinity Church, Laurel: March 22-April 1; Sonny Adkins, pastor; Forest Church, Forest, evangelist; Lee Gordon, First Church, Houston, music; services, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 nightly; A. Harrison Weger, pastor.

Blythe Creek Church, Mathiston: March 29-April 1; Henry E. Hight, Calhoun City, evangelist; Tim Hudson, Union Church, music; services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Olyn F. Roberts, pastor.

Center Grove Church, Meridian: April 3-5; Steve Winstead, evangelist; Hurricane Trio, Friday, special music; C. C. Burns, Saturday, special music; Todd Holloman, Sunday, special music; services, nightly at 7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Edd Holloman, pastor.

Parkway Church, Houston: April 5-9; 7 p.m. nightly; Clarence Cooper, Jr., pastor, Emmanuel Church, Grenada, evangelist; John Kendall, a student at Mississippi State University, music; David Kendall, pastor.

Woodland Hills Church, Jackson: March 29-April 1; services, Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mark Tullis, music/drama evangelist, Pineville, La.; over 80 church members will participate in the religious dramas; Bill Fuller, pastor.

Clarksdale Church announces times for presentation of Living Last Supper

Hugh Plunkett, minister of music, Clarksdale Church, has announced that the fourth annual production of "The Living Last Supper" will be on April 16 and 17, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary of the church in Clarksdale.

Tickets for the presentation will be available April 1. They are free and are on a first come, first served basis. They can be obtained by coming to the church office at 401 First Street in Clarksdale, or by writing to Clarksdale Baptist Church, P. O. Box 746, Clarksdale, MS 38614. Ticket holders will be admitted beginning at 6:15 p.m. each evening. At 6:45 p.m. admission will be opened to all comers for as long as seats are available.

Since first presented in 1989, over 3,000 people have seen the performance where Leonard da Vinci's famous painting "The Last Supper"

First Church, Yazoo City: March 29-April 1; J. Garland McKee, director of evangelism, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Bill and Martha Bacon, First Church, Clinton, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Clifton Perkins, interim pastor.

Macedonia Church, Louisville: April 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kenny Hunt, pastor, Wess Chapel Church, Louisville, guest speaker; Charles Womble, Beacon Street, Philadelphia, music; Arnold Davis, Sr., pastor.

Leaf River Church (Smith): March 29-31; David Fortenberry, McComb, evangelist; Clark Wilson, McComb, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon. and Tues., 7 p.m.; Tony Chuter, pastor.

Hope Church, Philadelphia: April 2-5; Carlton Jones, Carthage, evangelist; William Crenshaw, Hope Church, music; services, 7 nightly and Sunday, 11 a.m.; Jimmy Young, pastor.

Parkhill Church, Jackson: March 29-April 1; Kermit McGregor, First Church, Mendenhall, evangelist; Jim Chance, Parkhill Church, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Sellers, pastor.

Puckett Church, (Rankin): March 29-April 1; Allen Stephens, First Church, Richland, evangelist; John Yates, Yazoo City, music; services, 7 p.m.; Barry Ward, pastor.

comes to life. Last year viewers from 27 towns and cities in Mississippi and 8 other states saw the presentation. The cast and musicians used in the production are all local church members, each an amateur. Other church members reproduced the table tapestry, the table settings, and costumes from the painting. For the 1992 presentation a 12 by 30 foot backdrop will be added, reproducing the background.

According to Carl White, pastor of Clarksdale Church, "The Living Last Supper" is fast becoming an Easter tradition in the Delta. "We have had people from as far away as Sioux Falls, S.D., and as close as Lyon, Miss., to see the presentation," he said. "Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Catholics, and members of the Beth Israel Synagogue have been present."

1991 Lottie Moon total to rise, projection show

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Despite economic recession and denominational squabbles, Southern Baptists gave more last year to the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions than ever before, if projections prove correct.

The projections, based on a survey of selected state Baptist conventions, show the Foreign Mission Board will receive \$81.75 million — a 3% increase over 1990 — by the time the accounting books close May 31. The survey almost never varies from actual receipts by more than a percentage point.

"This is an encouraging bit of news we certainly need," said board President R. Keith Parks. "We are grateful Southern Baptists continue to show interest and support for their mis-

sionaries and missions program. This has been characteristic of Southern Baptists and we believe this indicates it still characterizes us."

Considered the largest single offering of its kind, the Lottie Moon offering had grown every year since 1937 until a 1% downturn recorded in last year's budget. It accounts for an increasing portion of Southern Baptists' total foreign missions budget. Still, it has not met the annual budgeted goal since 1981.

The Lottie Moon offering, generally received by Southern Baptist congregations during December, was expected to account for about 46% of the \$183.7 million budget for foreign missions in 1992.

Croll writes for FMB.

PARKS

From page 3

retreat to affirm him until then but it remained "open ended."

"In the interest of resolving the continuing uncertainty among missionaries, and among Southern Baptists, it's really just going to be better to go ahead and make the transition as soon as possible. I think my staying would have continued that uncertainty. We don't need continuing uncertainty."

Trustees, asked later to respond to that reaction by Parks, reiterated the joint statement from Parks and trustees indicated their support for Parks' leadership.

Parks admitted some of the philosophical differences he has with trustees which he expressed in his February address still remain, such as the feeling there has been a shift in the board's basic approach to missions. But he said he felt during the retreat many of the trustees were beginning to understand his feelings and trying to take steps to move in the right direction.

Relationships between Parks and the trustees had become tense since the board's decision in October to remove \$365,000 budgeted for 1992 for the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, which many trustees consider to be "liberal."

Parks said in his February address he disagreed with the approach of using money to enforce theological conformity on those who receive Baptist money overseas.

Hancock said at the press conference he feels trustees and staff had pushed that issue behind them and were moving together in unity.

However, Parks said he doesn't feel his style of leadership matches what some trustees would expect and he doesn't exert control over the theological positions of staff and missionaries that some desire.

Trustee Joel Gregory of Texas said in an interview later he feels trustees

MBMC employs new director, pastoral care

Paul Stephenson, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's new director of pastoral care, joins the hospital from the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, where he was director of hospital chaplaincy. Prior to that position he was director of Chaplaincy at Scottsdale Memorial Hospital in Scottsdale, Ariz.

A native of Vidor, Texas, Stephenson was educated at East Texas State University, New Orleans Seminary, Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans, and Texas Christian University.

Stephenson and his wife Charlotte have two grown daughters. He succeeds Gordon Shamburger, who retired in February after 28 years of service.

Homecomings

West Laurel Church, Laurel: April 5; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. and worship, 10:30 a.m.; Joe Hinton, former pastor, preaching; Kenneth Jacobs, former minister of music, will lead singing; dinner on the grounds; informal time for fellowship and reminiscing will begin April 4 at 6:30 p.m. in fellowship hall; Cary F. Worthington, pastor.

have confidence in staff and missionaries and no effort will be made to get them to sign theological statements.

Hancock said trustees came to the retreat to demonstrate unity and togetherness and had affirmed Parks' leadership. But, he said, they had to honor his feeling God was leading him in another direction.

Asked if he would continue missions through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Parks said he will continue to follow his calling to missions

wherever God leads but he's not sure where that will be. The CBF is an organization of Southern Baptist churches formed in protest to the conservative majority in the Southern Baptist controversy.

On the question of philosophical differences, Hancock noted boards of trustees will have differences with anyone in the role of president and they must work together under God's leadership.

O'Brien, managing editor, News and Information Office, FMB.

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LIFE AND WORK

Accept God's invitation



By Lola M. Autry
Matthew 22:1-14

You may never have been invited to a royal wedding; neither have I. But in your imagination, see the splendor, the elegance, the royal gowns of the ladies, and the immaculately clad gentlemen. Much preparation has taken place. The king is waiting for the return of the RSVPs. No one accepts!

The king's first invitation (vv. 1-3). This is the situation experienced in the parable told here by Jesus. A certain king invited guests to his son's wedding. They would not come. Jesus compares this to the Father's invitation to the kingdom of heaven. Many are invited. Most will not come.

The king's second invitation (v. 4). Because he loved his son, the king issued a second invitation. Other servants were instructed to appeal to those invited in a different way. We are not all called into God's kingdom in the same manner. Some heed God's call to salvation or service through hearing a song; some through reading the Word; some through preaching; some through a still, small voice; some in solitude; others in a crowd. God is everywhere and he wants us as part of his kingdom.

Rejecting the king's invitation (vv. 5-6). A little girl was promised a party on her sixth birthday. The hour arrived. No one came. Heartbroken, she cried, "No one likes me. No one came to my party." In the Bible parable, the king might have cried, "No one likes me. No one will come to my party."

Still more terrible in the king's situation was that his servants were mistreated and killed by those who had been invited. How does this apply to us?

Our heavenly Father issues invitations to us to come into the kingdom. How have you answered his invitation?

If you are one of his servants, have you been mistreated? How did you respond?

The king's third invitation (vv. 8-10). The wedding would not be cancelled. Those unworthy people who had been invited could not separate the groom from his bride.

And there would be guests. Servants went to people who did not have fashionable home addresses nor splendid clothing nor the trappings of the guests first invited. They went into the highways and brought in the people. Some were good; some bad. Our God invites the "best" and the "worst" of us to feast at his table. He is able to save to the uttermost any who come. He rejects those who reject him.

The unprepared wedding guest (vv. 11-14). Among the guests was a man not properly clothed. In what way was he not properly dressed? Jesus said he was not wearing a wedding garment. What did he mean?

Equating this parable wedding to that of Jesus whose bride is the church, we can understand that Jesus is saying there are people who think they should be permitted into the kingdom without the necessary attire of righteousness and salvation. In Matthew 7:21 Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my father which is in heaven."

And what is his will? II Peter 3:9 makes it plain: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

That is how we become clothed with righteousness. We are invited — all of us. Invited to be a part of the kingdom of God through belief in and acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Without him, we are outcasts.

Autry lives in Hickory Flat, and is a member of Pine Grove Church.



Southern Baptists: A Missions People
hearing, believing, living, telling His story

BIBLE BOOK

God's steadfast love



By Charles Nestor
Jonah 3:1-2; 3:10-4:2,5-11

This concluding section deals with Jonah's obedience to God, Nineveh's response, Jonah's anger toward God and the lesson God taught him.

I. God's second call to Jonah (3:1-2). Jonah had been quite indifferent to God's desire for him and his people to be a light to the Gentiles. Jonah rebelled at the command to go to Nineveh. Now he was ready to go, but he did not have love in his heart for the Ninevites.

The message for us is that God loved the Ninevites and was willing to work with people who were rebellious and resentful. Therefore, there is hope for people of our day. God loved the people in that large city and wanted to see them saved. Just think of the multitudes in large cities around the world today. These are people God loves and wants to see saved. Pray for more obedient servants to respond to his call.

II. Nineveh's response to Jonah's message (3:10). Jonah entered the city and began to preach the message that they would be overthrown in 40 days unless they repented. The people heard and responded. The whole city turned to God from their sin. The implication is that they completely trusted God. The extent of their repentance is confirmed by the action of the king. In verse 6 we read that he arose from his throne, put aside his royal robe, covered himself with sackcloth, sat in ashes, and issued a decree of national repentance to be published throughout the land. In return, God withdrew his threatened judgment upon them. His real desire was to forgive and save them. The possibility of having to destroy Nineveh did not bring joy to God. Now he was filled with joy at their repentance.

Any time we repent and turn from evil, God forgives and blesses us with mercy. We are to be busy proclaiming and teaching the judgment of God and his appeal for repentance and forgiveness. The only way to receive the forgiveness of God is to repent and turn from evil.

III. Jonah's anger toward God (4:1-2:5). Jonah's response did not please God. He was upset because God had shown mercy and grace to Nineveh. He should have rejoiced and offered to help them understand and respond to God's forgiveness. The tragic truth is that he did not want them to be forgiven. His anger toward God is seen in a quarrelsome prayer. In his prayer he tried to justify his past rebellion and present anger. He really did not want to be a part of seeing the Ninevites saved.

Jonah knew about God's forgiving nature. He had experienced it in becoming his servant. He experienced it again when God delivered him from death and gave him a second chance to take his ministry to Nineveh. He knew God's love to be merciful, full of kindness and a desire to see every person repent and turn to him. It is sad when the creature attempts to tell the Creator what his response of forgiveness should be.

Jonah had gone throughout the city. Now he made a booth to sit and see what was to happen. He knew God had forgiven the repentant Ninevites. But Jonah was a "die hard." He held on to some hope that they just might turn back to evil and still be destroyed. Sometimes God's people are the most difficult to deal with. That is really a tragedy.

IV. God's lesson to Jonah (4:6-11). This closing passage offers some interesting illustrations. God uses three instruments to teach Jonah about his love for all people: 1) God allows a gourd to grow to provide him shade. "Gourd" is a general word used for a garden plant. It was also used for the bottle-gourd, which is a vine that grows and withers quickly. 2) Then a worm destroys the gourd. 3) The same day a strong east wind blows that scorches Jonah. He begins to complain, even to the point of wanting to die.

God confronts him with some direct questions. God wants to know how he could be so upset over the loss of a plant in whose growing Jonah had no hand. If he has that much concern for a piece of vegetation, surely God should have regard for human life.

The human tendency is to place greater value on material blessings than we do the salvation of human lives. We are to realize God loves the souls of men, and we do not have the right to exclude anyone. We are commissioned to share his love.

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

UNIFORM

A price to pay



By Bobby Williamson
Mark 8:27-9:13

I am convinced today that we live in a self-centered society. It is a strong possibility that we are very much like the people that lived during Jesus' day. In our lesson today we find Jesus dealing with these very people, and yet, he calls them from their self-centeredness. As a matter of fact, he tells them consistently that they are going to have to hate some things, forsake some things, and die.

Jesus, it would seem, would never make it as a recruiter in our day. In a day when lives are centered on the material of this world, and when individuals are so self-centered, Jesus once again is calling us to take up his cross, and follow him.

I. Jesus asked who people thought he was (8:27-28).

We are asked many questions in our lifetimes. Many we are able to answer, some we are not. Of all the questions that might be asked of us, we find one of the most penetrating of all asked in verse 27, when Jesus said to his disciples, "Who do the people say I am?"

We find a response that might seem incredulous to us, but in all reality it is a response much like one we are likely to receive today. Our text tells us that some said John the Baptist, Elijah, or even one of the prophets. Our world today has some very confused ideas about this man Jesus. Some still say he was just another prophet, some say he was a good teacher, others deny his very existence. It is important that we reach these precious souls with the truth of the gospel. This should also cause each of us to affirm or reaffirm that he is God's Son, our Saviour and Lord.

II. Jesus asked who the disciples thought he was (8:29).

Jesus then turned the tables when he asked, "But who do you say that I am?" As we ponder this question in our own lives I am quite sure that most of us have the correct "head knowledge" of who Jesus is. The question we might ask ourselves today is, "If Jesus is truly the Redeemer, then why don't we act more redeemed?" Jesus did not say that you would know his disciples by what they say, but by what they do. There are many who talk a good talk, even within our churches today. But the real question might be, "Does what we say we believe about Jesus have impact on our daily lives?"

In verse 30 he warned them to tell no one about him. Why did Jesus command that the disciples remain silent about him? Now that he had been so explicit, they might have naturally thought the time had come for giving it out openly. But in this command Jesus is telling them the time is not yet here.

III. Jesus teaches about his suffering (8:31-33).

When Jesus began to teach that he must suffer and die, Peter argued with him; and Jesus rebuked Peter. Jesus, I am sure, understood that Peter only uttered what the others were thinking. Yet, it is amazing how quickly the "rock" turned to a devil. Do we act one way on Sunday, and another on Monday? May we learn to be consistent in our Christian walk. The suffering and sacrificing of Jesus should inspire us to daily give thanks for his giving his life on our behalf.

IV. Jesus' requirements for his disciples (8:34-38).

Jesus declared that anyone who would be his disciple must deny self, take up one's cross, and follow him in open commitment. What does denying self mean? It means to dethrone self and to make Christ the Lord of our lives. To the lost person this is the answer to eternal life, Jesus as Lord and Savior. To the Christian it is a time of reidentification with who Jesus really is, and a recommitment to his lordship in our lives. Let us this week deny ourselves and take up our crosses that we might truly be his disciples.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.

capsules

INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHOIR FESTIVAL SET: RUSCHLIKON, SWITZERLAND — Plans are now in place for the International Baptist Choir Festival, to be held at the Baptist Theological Seminary here, June 26-28.

"This will truly be a significant occasion for everyone involved as Baptist choirs from different parts of the world come to learn, sing, play, worship, and praise — together in Christ," said Leroy Yarbrough, Festival Choir Director, who is presently music coordinator for the Baptist World Alliance. Yarbrough is the chairman of the Division of Church Music at New Orleans Seminary. The registration fee is SFr. 5 (US\$ 3.50) per person. The amount will be used to defray the costs of publicity and postage. Each choir must be responsible for all expenses including transportation, food, music, etc. Registrations must be made by May 1, 1992, in order that applications for visas, required for participants from some countries, can be completed. Choirs should arrive in time for all activities on June 26 and should plan to remain until after the Festival Concert on Sunday afternoon, June 28. Each choir is requested to present a 25-minute concert during the Festival, to present a concert of 1 hour in the Zurich area on Saturday afternoon, and to perform during a worship service in Zurich churches. In addition, choirs will perform four Festival musical selections with the combined choirs, and two additional pieces in the national language of the choir.

Interested choirs and individuals should contact the Ruschlikon Seminary, phone 411 7240010, fax 411 7243148, or Leroy Yarbrough by phone to the USA, (504) 282-4455.

THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH IN SAUDI ARABIA GREW DRAMATICALLY IN 1991, according to a missionary who maintains contacts inside the Muslim country and asked not to be identified. Church leaders who compared notes at a recent rendezvous in Dhahran concluded that 1,000 Saudis had come to Christ since the end of the Persian Gulf War, the missionary told National and International Religion Report. The believers usually meet in small groups in homes. A church in Riyadh has swelled to 3,000 members, although most of them are expatriate workers. Small groups of Christians also have sprouted in Jeddah and Mecca, the source said. . . . Saudi religious police are cracking down on illegal Christian meetings, News Network International reported.

A MOTION PICTURE ON THE LIFE OF CHRIST PRODUCED BY A POPULAR HINDU ACTOR has reportedly turned millions of people in India to the Christian faith. The film, "Daya Sagar" ("Oceans of Mercy" in the Hindi language), was shot on location in India in the mid-1970s with an all-Indian cast. It is not to be confused with Campus Crusade's "Jesus" movie, which features mostly Israeli actors. Thousands of mobile film teams, equipped with generators and bed sheets for screens, have shown "Daya Sagar" to an estimated 30 million people throughout India since 1979, said John Gilman, president of Virginia Beach, Va.-based Dayspring International. Latest reports indicate that it is shown about 2,000 times each month, he told National and International Religion Report, adding that over 3 million people have made public decisions for Christ as a direct result of the film. With backing from various mission groups, he has launched a plan to stage screenings in all of India's 600,000 rural villages. He contends that film evangelism is perhaps the only practical means to take the gospel to India's vast population, since 70% of the people are illiterate and most have no access to television. Gilman, who worked with Christian Broadcasting Network for 13 years, is developing similar film projects for use in China and Africa.

EXTINGUISHING RED LIGHTS... BY BRIGHTENING NAILS: Netherlands. — Free beauty care for prostitutes in Amsterdam's infamous red light district is proving to be an unlikely key that can turn their thoughts toward God. Women working in the city's world-renowned sex industry are opening the doors of their canal-side "shops" — and their hearts — to a team of young women missionaries. Led by a professional manicurist, Alys Blakeley from Modesto, California, the Youth With A Mission group visits in pairs, trimming and painting nails and taking the opportunity to talk about their faith and pray for their "clients." During the 45 minutes or so it takes to complete the job, one of them will talk with the "client", share their faith, and ask if there is anything they can pray about for them. The partner doing the manicure has to concentrate, so they leave the conversation to the other and just pray. "We feel that's very important; we pray that the women may sense the peace and purity of God," explained Blakeley. The team has named its ministry The Shining Light, from the passage in Proverbs which says that "the light of the righteous shines brightly, but the lamp of the wicked is snuffed out." The team's long-term hope is that the nail polishing will lead to some of the women putting their red lights out for the last time.

FOOD FOR ALBANIA: (BWA News) — During this month of March, Baptists in Albania will receive \$100,000 worth of flour through the combined efforts of Baptist World Aid, \$25,000; the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, \$50,000 and the Canadian Baptist Federation, \$25,000. The BWAid package is being coordinated through Baptist Response Europe, the team representing the BWA, the European Baptist Federation and Baptist mission organizations serving in Europe.

HARARE '93 (BWA News) — Baptist young people from Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica and the Bahamas are already planning to participate in the 12th Baptist Youth Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe, Aug. 11-15, 1993. Along with Baptist from around the world, they will hear a Baptist choir from the Massai tribe in Kenya. New brochures promoting the Youth Scholarship Fund are available from the BWA office for distribution to churches and individuals.



Nine churches take part in orchestra fest

In the Church Orchestra Festival held Feb. 24 at Crossgates Church, Brandon, Joe King, Southwestern Seminary, served as guest clinician. He also conducted the mass orchestra at the close of the festival. Nine church orchestras presented

music at the festival. John Hanbery, Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, served as coordinator for the event.

N.O. trustees approve new degree

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Trustees of New Orleans Seminary approved a proposal for a new baccalaureate degree program and elected a new chairman during their annual spring meeting on the New Orleans Seminary campus, March 10-11.

The proposal for a baccalaureate degree program, with bachelor of arts and bachelor of general studies degrees, will be the first of its kind offered by any Southern Baptist seminary and will be available during the coming fall term, beginning Aug. 25, contingent on approval of the curriculum by the seminary's academic affairs committee and faculty this spring.

The seminary currently offers accredited associate's, master's, and doctoral degree programs. The

seminary has been offering baccalaureate-level work since 1980 for students age 25 and older.

This new baccalaureate degree program will fill the void between the associate's- and master's-level degrees.

Also approved are proposals for new master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degree programs with a major in psychology and counseling through the division of pastoral ministries, set to begin in the fall.

Trustees elected W. Keith Huffman, pastor of First Church in Ironton, Mo., as chairman, to succeed Charles L. Wood of Wichita, Kan., who served the two-year limit. Reelected were J. Roy McComb of Columbia, Miss., as vice chairman, and C. Glynn Rhinehart of

River Ridge, La., as secretary-treasurer.

Trustees affirmed the action of Landrum P. Leavell II, seminary president, in appointing Billy K. Smith as vice president for academic affairs, in light of the retirement of Joe H. Cothen, who held the position since 1982. Smith has been professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at NOBTS since 1981 and chairman of the division of biblical studies since 1988.

Trustees adopted a budget of \$7.45 million, reflecting a 3.2% increase for the 1992-93 fiscal year.

Trustees also approved two faculty promotions, effective Aug. 1: R. Dennis Cole to associate professor of archaeology and Bob E. Simmons to professor of missions.

Trustees struggle with "shared governance"

By Herb Hollinger

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Southeastern Seminary trustees approved a retirement package for President Lewis A. Drummond, OK'd a \$6.1 million budget for 1992-93, and struggled with "shared governance" in three major seminary documents.

Meeting for their regular March 9-10 meeting on the Wake Forest campus, trustees spent most of the first day hammering out a financial package for Drummond. Drummond, 65, will retire June 30 after four years as the fourth president of Southeastern.

"Shared governance" and definitions of the phrase dominated trustee discussion on a statement of purpose, faculty selection process, and a faculty profile. Because the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools placed the seminary on probation in December, citing trustees with being too involved in some faculty governing areas among other things, trustees were sensitive to having faculty review the three documents before finally approving them.

A lengthy statement of purpose was proposed by the trustees' executive committee but was replaced, after much discussion, with an administration-proposed short purpose statement followed by a more lengthy

statement of mission.

Difficulty with the inclusion of inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible in the statement was a problem for the faculty. Academic Dean L. Russ Bush said, "The faculty is not committed to this concept."

Bush said there had been two years of discussion between the trustees and the faculty but an impasse still existed. Several trustees said it was time to "get on with it, make a decision." The administration proposed statement was approved with one dissenting vote.

Again, upon urging from Bush, trustees discussed at length a proposed faculty selection process but voted to table it and send it to the faculty for "feedback and input."

In fact, the trustees approved the process but Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., former SBC president and newly-appointed trustee, called for a reconsideration vote although he expressed concerns about the "shared governance" concept.

William Delahoyde, trustee from Raleigh, N.C., then moved the selection process be approved by the trustees but also sent for consultation and input from faculty. The trustees then will vote a final time on the matter in either the October regular meeting or at an expected earlier

special meeting to elect a new president. His motion was approved without dissent. Hollinger Press.

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